

TEXAS

Alabama-Coushatta Reservation

Federal reservation
Polk County, Texas

Alabama and Coushatta Tribes
Rte. 3, Box 640
Livingston, TX 77351
(409) 563-4391 or (800) 444-3507
Fax: 563-4397

Total area	4,503.55 acres
Total labor force	234
High school graduate or higher	66.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	05.9%
Unemployment rate	25.0%
Per capita income	\$5,776
Tribal enrollment	890

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Alabama-Coushatta Reservation is located northeast of Houston in an area surrounded by pine forests called the Big Thicket. When the reservation was originally created in 1854 by Sam Houston, the total area was 1,280 acres. Subsequent purchases have increased the amount of land owned by the tribe to just over 4,500 acres. Most of the land has been placed under state trusteeship.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Alabama and Coushatta tribes originally came to Texas in the 1700s. Both tribes are of Muskogean linguistic group, and were once members of the Upper Creek Confederacy in their original homeland, which is now Alabama. They are said to be the first friendly tribes encountered by Spanish explorers in the southwestern United States. The culture and religion were irreversibly affected by the Protestant religion, and by virtue of being surrounded by white communities. In recent years, local attention and tourist programs that focus on Indian characteristics have helped somewhat to salvage some of the culture and traditions of the Alabama and Coushatta tribes.

Thanks to this history of peaceful relations, the tribe was allowed to remain in Texas when all other tribes were removed to Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Both tribes were administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs until Public Law 280 terminated federal affiliation.

GOVERNMENT

The tribal council is composed of seven members who are elected at large. In Texas, the governor appoints three persons to serve as the Texas Commission for Indian Affairs. The commission is responsible for safeguarding the best interest of the tribes. The Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council concurrently approves or vetoes all actions handed down by the commission. The commission also concurrently approves or gives advice in all actions by the tribal

council. Tribal associations include the Texas Forestry Association, the Big Thicket Association and the National Congress of American Indians. The tribe employs 18 persons.

ECONOMY

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Much attention has been given recently to Indian-oriented activities for tourists and visitors. There is a Visitors and Information Center, and the tribe also operates the Museum of Alabama and Coushatta. There is a living history museum, called the Living Indian Village, that features basket making, weaving, beadwork, and arrowheads. There are also craft and food preparation demonstrations and a guided walking tour.

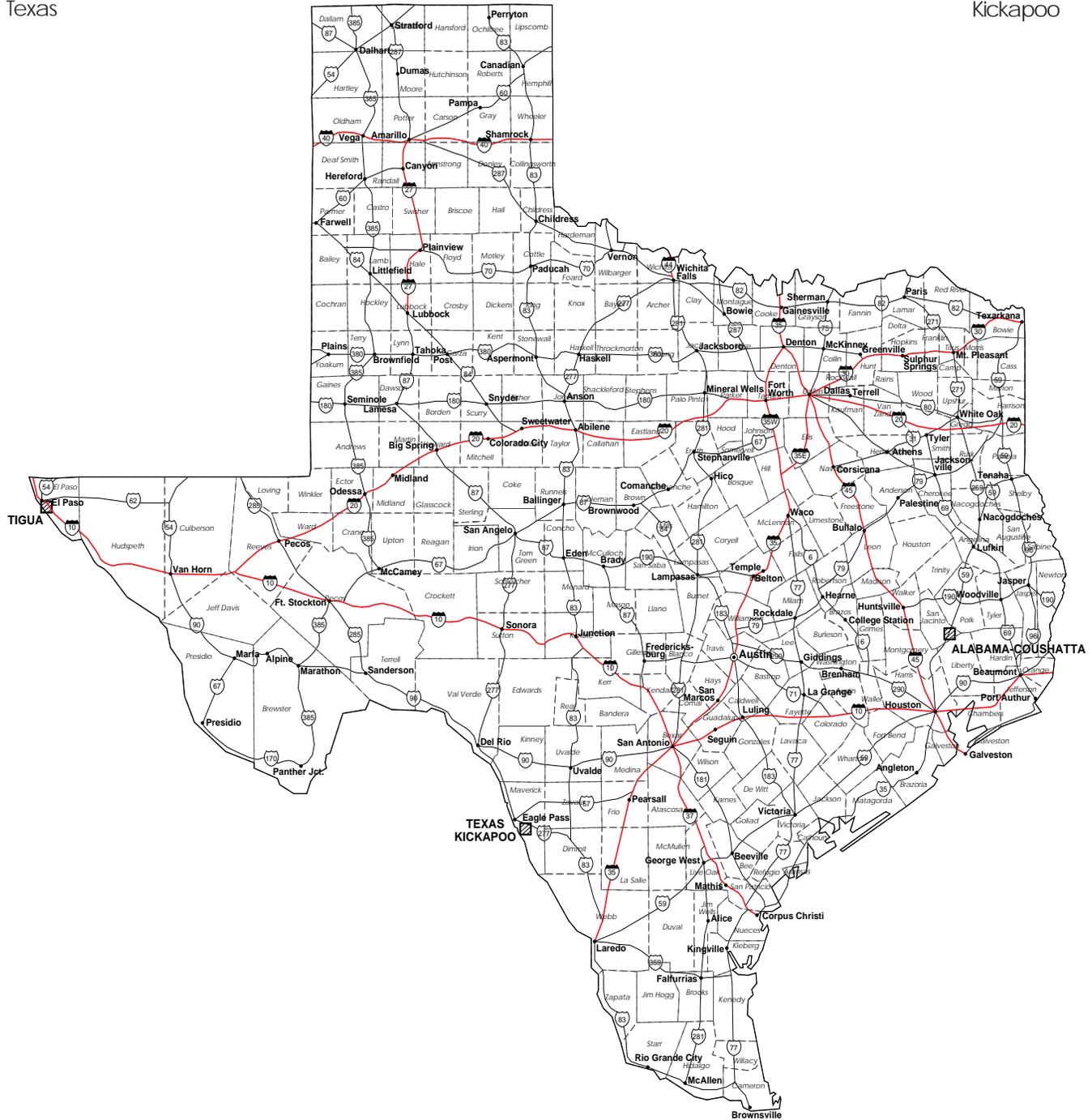
Recreational opportunities on the reservation include tours of the Big Thicket Wilderness area, open-air bus tours of Indian Country, the Big Chief Train, and Lake Tombigbee, with a wide range of camp sites, full RV hook-ups, fishing, swimming, hiking and nature trails. The tribe also owns a Tribal Dance Square where cultural dances take place on weekends during the spring and fall months.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The reservation lies along Highway 190. Commercial buslines and truck lines are available in Livingston, 17 miles from the reservation. Air and train transportation are available 90 miles away in Houston.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The tribes have installed and maintain a sewer system. Water is drawn from wells. United Gas Corporation provides natural gas, and the Sam Houston Electric Cooperative provides electricity. Tribal members receive medical care at the Tyler County Hospital in Woodville and the John Sealy Hospital in Galveston. Former school buildings provide places for various functions, including gospel singing, basketball games, and pow wows.



Kickapoo Reservation

Federal reservation
 Kickapoo
 Maverick County, Texas

Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
 P. O. Box 972
 Eagle Pass, TX 78853
 (210) 773-2105
 Fax: 757-9229

Total area	125.43 acres
Total labor force	334
Unemployment rate	40%
Tribal enrollment	450

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

Since the late 1860s, some Kickapoos have lived in a village (El Nacimiento Rancheria) of traditional houses made of reed mats on 17,290 acres granted them by the Mexican government. The village is located in the state of Coahuila, 25 miles northwest of Muzquis and 125 miles southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The French encountered the Kickapoo near the lower Great Lakes in the late 1600s. European expansion and intertribal conflicts led to migrations and dispersal as Kickapoo bands scattered widely throughout Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Texas. In the early 1800s, one group migrated to Mexico. By 1865 the only large concentration of Kickapoos in the United States was in Kansas. In 1873 the United States Cavalry crossed into Mexico in retaliation for Kickapoo raids

in Texas, and captured about forty women and children. These Kickapoo were held hostage by the cavalry. Eventually some three hundred of the captives' relatives relocated and were given a reservation in central Oklahoma, but about half the group chose to remain in Mexico.

For the past century, these Kickapoos have lived by hunting, gathering, farming, and migrant farm labor. In the 1940s fencing of lands by Mexican ranchers, overhunting, and drought led them to migrate annually to the United States to work as farm laborers.

In March these Kickapoos begin their annual farmwork "tour" of the United States, beginning in south Texas, then following harvest through the midwestern and western states. They return to Mexico in the winter for their ceremonial season. These Kickapoos have long used Eagle Pass, Texas as their base of operations when in the United States. They live in a village of traditional houses under the international bridge over the Rio Grande, between Eagle Pass, Texas and Piedras Negras, Mexico.

Until recently, Kickapoos who chose dual residency did not have clear legal status in either the United States or Mexico, and they received only limited assistance and government services from either country. In 1979 they asked the United States Government to clarify their American citizenship status; these Kickapoos wished to continue to move freely between the United States and Mexico and to be granted trust land and government services in the Eagle Pass area. They entered into negotiations with the United States Departments of the Interior and State, the Mexican government, and the Inter-American Indian Institute, with legal assistance from the Native American Rights Fund, and support from Kickapoos in Oklahoma and Kansas. These negotiations resulted in the passage of Public Law 97-429, the Texas Band of Kickapoo Act, in January of 1983. This act recognized the "Texas Band of Kickapoo" as a distinct, self-governing subgroup of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. Federal recognition made the Texas Band eligible for federal programs and assistance without having to travel to Oklahoma.

The Kickapoo Trust Land Acquisition Committee raised more than \$300,000 and in 1984 purchased 125 acres along the Rio Grande in Maverick County, Texas, about 8 miles south of Eagle Pass. On November 21, 1985, 145 members of the 650-member band became American citizens. In 1989, the Texas Band of Kickapoo developed a constitution and submitted it to the secretary of the interior, requesting federal recognition as a separate and distinct tribe.

The Kickapoo aboriginal religion revolves around a seasonal ceremonial cycle, beginning in early spring with a series of major ceremonies that continue for several weeks. Many ceremonies take place in Nacimiento, and a large number of Oklahoma Kickapoo travel to Mexico to join with their kin in a traditional Kickapoo environment. The Kickapoo language is preserved by tribal members in Texas and Oklahoma.

Tigua Reservation

Federal reservation
Tigua
El Paso County, Texas

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
119 S. Old Pueblo Rd.
P. O. Box 17579
El Paso, TX 79917
(915) 859-7913
Fax: 859-2988

Total area	76 acres
Federal trust status	66 acres
Unemployment rate	53%
Tribal enrollment	1,284

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

All the land on the Tigua reservation is federal trust land.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Tigua originally located at Isleta, New Mexico, were removed by the Spanish during the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and relocated to at Ysleta del Sur, in what is now Texas. The tribe was late in obtaining federal recognition due to its physical isolation from other pueblos. The tribe was recognized by the federal government in 1968, by PL 90-287. The Tigua practice traditions and customs found in no other pueblo. They continue to live in the same adobe houses, and obtain much of their subsistence by hunting, fishing and planting small gardens.

GOVERNMENT

The tribal government consists of a cacique, capitan de guerra, governor, lieutenant governor, and alguacil or bailiff. All major actions by the council are approved or ratified by tribal vote.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The tribe is currently planning a tax and bookkeeping service, as well as an office supply store.

GAMING

The Speaking Rock Gaming Facility, a Class II gaming facility, was completed in November 1994. The facility employs 60 tribal members and 90 non-tribal members.

SERVICES

There is a tribal smokeshop, a tribal printshop, a cultural center and eatery, and a restaurant located on the reservation.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

On June 13, St. Anthony's Day, the tribe holds a fiesta which includes traditional pueblo dances.

INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Highway 54 is a north-south route through El Paso. U.S. Highway 80 and Interstate 10 are major east-west routes. All forms of commercial transportation are available twelve miles away in El Paso, Texas.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The city and county provide health care at Ysleta Center. A clinic at Alameda is open to tribal members by contract. Hospitalization is available at Thompson General Hospital. Very few homes on the reservation have running water, utilities, or sanitary facilities; all of which are available in El Paso.

